

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11. Support for amended claims 1 and 11 may be found at least in page 3, line 10 - page 5, line 3; page 7, line 27 - page 8, line 10; and Figs. 4 and 5. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiners Jean-Gilles and Winder in the March 8 personal interview. Applicant incorporates a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the title as non-descriptive. By this Amendment, Applicant amends the title to indicate that the user profile is generated by monitoring electronic messages. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended title is sufficiently descriptive of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 6,029,195 to Herz. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11 to recite that for each selected message, the selected message is selected and the extracted profile data is extracted before the user reads the selected message. Herz does not disclose this feature.

As discussed during the personal interview, Herz discloses a "passive feedback" method of building a user profile in which a user's interaction with a target document is monitored and the user profile is updated based on the user's interaction with the target document (col. 18, line 23 - col. 19, line 7). Importantly, the user must interact with a target document (e.g., an electronic message) before the systems and methods of Herz may monitor

and update the user profile based on the interaction. Thus, Herz cannot reasonably be considered to disclose extracting the profile data before the user reads the selected message as recited in claims 1 and 11.

During the personal interview, Examiner Jean-Gilles suggested that col. 19, lines 8-28 of Herz might disclose extracting profile data before a user reads the selected message. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion.

Col. 19, lines 8-28 of Herz disclose the "filtering" function of the systems and methods disclosed in Herz. When filtering, the systems and methods of Herz search for new target documents based on the user's existing user profile (col. 4, line 48 - col. 8, line 47; col. 19, line 8 - col. 29, line 35). The systems and method of Herz compare the user profile with a "target profile" of prospective documents and measure their similarity (id). If the systems and methods of Herz determine that the user profile and a target profile are similar, then the target document corresponding to the target profile is determined to be of interest to the user (id).

Importantly, although the target document may be discovered without interaction by a user, the user's user profile is not updated based on that discovered target document until the user interacts with the document (col. 18, line 23 - col. 19, line 7).

Because, according to Herz, the user must interact with an electronic message before the user profile is updated, Herz cannot reasonably be considered to disclose extracting the profile data before the user reads the selected message as recited in claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Herz.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 20 are patentable over Herz for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 11 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

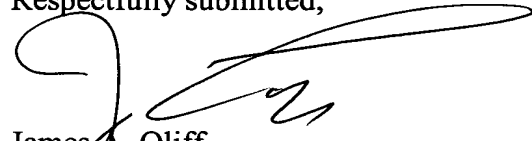
The Office Action rejects claims 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herz in view of U.S. Patent 6,029,195 to Gershman et al. (hereinafter "Gershman"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

This rejection is premised upon the presumption that Herz discloses all of the features of claims 1 and 11. As discussed above, Herz does not disclose all of the features of claims 1 and 11. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jesse O. Collier
Registration No. 53,839

JAO:JOC/tea

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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